

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01
SP-02 ICA-11 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 OPIC-03
STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 AF-10
ARA-11 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 DLOS-09 OES-09 INT-05
DOE-15 SOE-02 /184 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3906

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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USUN PASS TO LOS DELEGATION

E.O. N/A

TAGS: PLOS, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD: G-77 DRAFT RESOLUTION ON DEEP SEABED
MINING

REFERENCES: (A) GENEVA 13555, (B) GENEVA 13394

1. PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR ARIAS SCHREIBER REPORTEDLY
PLANNING TO CALL FOR VOTE ON SUBJECT RESOLUTION AT TDB
SESSIONAL COMMITTEE 1 THIS AFTERNOON. GROUP B CAUCUS
DISCUSSED ATTITUDE OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS THIS MORNING.
AT LEAST U.K., FRG, FRANCE, ITALY, BELGIUM, JAPAN AND
U.S. ARE TENDING TO VOTE AGAINST. TURKEY, WHILE OPPOSED
TO CONSIDERATION OF ISSUE HERE, INDICATE THEY UNDER
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTE IN FAVOR IF RESOLUTION PRESSED TO
A VOTE. OTHER GROUP B COUNTRIES TENDING TOWARD ABSTEN-
TION.

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2. U.K. DELEGATION HAS DRAFTED FOLLOWING STATEMENT WHICH
COULD SERVE AS EXPLANATION OF VOTE BY COUNTRIES VOTING
AGAINST. REQUEST IMMEDIATE INSTRUCTIONS WHETHER STATE-
MENT ACCEPTABLE AS IT STANDS, WHETHER WE SHOULD SUGGEST
MODIFICATIONS, OR WHETHER U.S. SHOULD MAKE SEPARATE
STATEMENT; IN LATTER CASE, PLEASE FURNISH DETAILED
GUIDANCE. WE SEE TACTICAL ADVANTAGE IN JOINT STATEMENT.

3. BEGIN TEXT: SEABED MINING -- DRAFT EXPLANATION OF
VOTE BY GROUP B COUNTRIES VOTING AGAINST DRAFT RESOLUTION
L/3

MR. CHAIRMAN, I AM SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF U.S., U.K.,
FRG, FRANCE, ITALY, BELGIUM, JAPAN, WHO VOTED AGAINST
THE DRAFT RESOLUTION.

LIKE THE WHOLE OF GROUP B, WE CONSIDER IT INAPPROPRIATE FOR
THIS ISSUE TO BE RAISED HERE, WHEN THE SAME ISSUE IS
CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION IN THE PRINCIPAL FORUM IN NEW
YORK. WE ALSO DEPLORE THE MANNER IN WHICH THE ISSUE HAS
BEEN PRESENTED, AND THE RETURN TO VOTING IN THE TDB AFTER
A LONG PERIOD IN WHICH ALL DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY
CONSENSUS; VOTING, IN OUR VIEW, THREATENS TO UNDERMINE
THE WHOLE NEGOTIATING PROCESS WHICH HAS DEVELOPED IN UNCTAD.

FURTHERMORE ON THE SUBSTANCE WE HAVE A DIFFERENT VIEW OF
THE 1970 DECLARATION AND THE UNGA MORATORIUM RESOLUTION OF
1969, AS WAS EXPRESSED AT THE TIME, AS WELL AS ON THE
QUESTION OF LEGALITY, SINCE WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT
DEEP SEABED MINING LEGISLATION IS LAWFUL. WE REAFFIRMED
THIS VIEW IN OUR VOTE AGAINST RESOLUTION 52(III) AT
SANTIAGO. INTERIM LEGISLATION PENDING THE SUCCESSFUL
CONCLUSION OF A CONVENTION WOULD AIM SIMPLY TO ENSURE
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ORDERLY PROGRESS IN THIS NEW FIELD. IT WOULD ENSURE THE
CONTINUITY OF INVESTMENT NEEDED TO DEVELOP THE NEW
TECHNOLOGY (WHICH COULD NOT IN ANY CASE LEAD TO COMMERCIAL
MINING FOR MANY YEARS YET). AND IT WOULD BE TEMPORARY,
THAT IS IT WOULD BE SUPERSEDED AS SOON AS A GENERALLY
ACCEPTABLE CONVENTION HAS BEEN RATIFIED AND IS IN FORCE.

THANK YOU MR. CHAIRMAN. END TEXT.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SEABED, MINING, LAW OF THE SEA, RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA13582
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780369-0645
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780983/aaaacqjc.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 38687053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 GENEVA 13555, 78 GENEVA 13394
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1488851
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNCTAD: G-77 DRAFT RESOLUTION ON DEEP SEABED MINING
TAGS: PLOS, UNCTAD
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/38687053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014